

The Haliburton County

Two-week holiday edition



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Businesses respond to new restrictions

NICK BERNARD

Staff Reporter

In an announcement presented on Dec. 17, the Ontario government announced new restrictions in the face of rising COVID-19 case counts, and the continuing spread of the Omicron variant.

Effective as of Dec. 19 at midnight, a 50 per cent capacity limit is in place for a number of indoor settings:

- Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments and strip clubs;
 - Personal care services;
 - Personal physical fitness trainers;
- Retailers (including grocery stores and pharmacies);
 - Shopping malls;
- Non-spectator areas of facilities used for sports and recreational fitness activities (e.g. gyms);
 - Indoor recreational amenities;
- Indoor clubhouses at outdoor recreational amenities;
 - Tour and guide services;
 - Photography studios and services;
- Marinas and boating clubs.
 "The experts have been very clear:

nothing will stop the spread of Omicron,' Ontario Premier Doug Ford said. "It's just too transmissible." No new announcements about school

see STUDENTS page 2



Huskies hold on to victory

On a partial breakaway, Haliburton County Huskies forward Bryce Richardson is tripped from behind by Toronto Jr. A Canadiens forward Christian Catalano, but maintains possession of the puck during Ontario Junior Hockey League action on Friday, Dec. 17 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The Huskies won 4-3. See page 11 for story and more photos. /DARREN LUM Staff

Health unit asks employers to help slow COVID-19 surge

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) district health unit press conference with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking, held virtually Dec. 15 and press releases issued Dec. 15 and Dec.17.

After the provincial government announced new restrictions to capacity limits on Dec. 17, that afternoon the health unit sent a letter of instruction to employers encouraging them to put measures in

place to help prevent further spread of COVID-19. The province was reporting an increasing surge in confirmed cases of the virus due to the Omicron variant, that number topping 4,000 on Dec. 19. In the past two weeks, 126 cases have been confirmed within the HKPR region.

see MOH page 2



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year







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Students can expect in-person learning upon return

from page 1

closures were announced, but Ford said he understood parents' concerns.

"I know you're concerned about your kids' schools, and what to expect after the new year," he said. "I can tell you this: No decision has been made on what that looks like yet.'

In an email to the Echo, the TLDSB confirmed Ford's statement:

"TLDSB follows the directives of the local and provincial health units and the Ministry of Education in relation to all COVID-19 restrictions; at this time we have not been advised by the Medical Officer of Health or by the Minister of Education that schools will be required to close to in-person learning in January," the school board said. "TLDSB is currently planning for students and staff to return to in-person learning on Jan. 3, 2022. Should provincial directives change over the holidays, we will communicate to staff and families as promptly as pos-

Locally, the restrictions have affected organizations like the Highland Storm

Minor Hockey Association. Their restrictions include a maximum of two spectators per player allowed in the arena, no spectators allowed in the indoor lobby areas, and mandatory social distancing and mask use.

The Haliburton Curling Club's president Ken Milford announced his club's restrictions as well.

'Throughout the entire pandemic we have pledged to keep you all as safe as possible at all times and this will not change," Milford said in an email directed to members. "As it stands today we believe that legally we could continue to curl at 50 per cent capacity if we choose to adjust a few protocols and split some draws down to two sheets.'

There were, however, three issues facing the club's board: The rate of transmission, the fact that fully vaccinated people are still at risk of infection, and the probability that each of club member's personal contacts are likely to increase through the end of the holiday season

'Which means that we have a diminished ability to make sure you are safe," Milford said. As a result, the curling board has passed a motion to suspend operation of the club through the Christmas break.

Doug Wilkinson, new owner of Sir Sam's Ški and Ride said the facility is still working out how to interpret the 50 per cent capacity limit, given the different number of indoor spaces that encompasses Sir Sam's. Its liquor licence covers a capacity of 650 both indoors and outdoors, while other indoor spaces have a capacity for up to 450.

Wilkinson also said that Sir Sam's never returned to full capacity after an easing of restrictions in October.

"For the most part, we didn't go back to full capacity," Wilkinson said. "So hopefully it's going to be a minor adjustment ... just because, since we're a ski hill, through the summer [we're] not very busy, so we never went back to full capac-

He said hopefully, any changes the facility does make will be done comfortably and with minimal impact to its current operational status.

"Our understanding is – and we were on a call with the Ministry [of Health] last

night [on Dec. 17] - that there's no impact to capacities outside on the hill," Wilkinson said. "So there's no issues on that

Elsewhere in the county, the Township of Algonquin Highlands announced the closure of all municipal facilities following a special meeting of the Algonquin Highlands council on Dec. 20.

As a result of the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, all Algonquin Highlands municipal facilities, including the administrative office on North Shore Road, are closed to the public effective immediately. Staff who are able to work from home have been instructed to do so," the township said in a press release. Landfills and hiking trails, however,

"If absolutely necessary, members of the public may still schedule meetings with township staff by appointment, and must observe COVID-19 safety protocols including mask-wearing and physical distancing during those meetings. However, contact by email or telephone is preferred at this time.

MOH recommends virtual meetings, staggered breaks

from page 1

"I am worried that we are already seeing a surge of cases in advance of the holiday season," said Bocking in the press release. "Our goal is to reduce the number of people working in close proximity to help halt any further spread. Broad measures are required as there is no one sector that is causing this sharp increase in local cases."

In her letter to employers, Bocking rec-

ommends that all employers move all employees to work remotely, unless their work requires them to be on-site at the workplace and limit all on-site interactions, including conducting meetings virtually when feasible to do so. Staff required to work on-site should be actively screened for symptoms of COVID-19, be physically distanced by at least two metres when at workstations, wear tightly fitting masks when moving throughout the workplace,

ROYALLEPAGE

LAKES of HALIBURTON

stagger lunches and breaks to maximize distance and minimize interactions and ensure that lunchrooms and break areas are arranged and posted with a maximum occupancy to maintain physical distance

between employees.

"While these measures will not stop an upcoming Omicron surge, the goal is to interrupt and slow down transmission of the virus as much as possible," Dr. Bocking said. "We need to work together to prevent severe illness from COVID and protect our health care system from further strain."

Potential case of Omicron variant

On Dec. 15, the health unit announced they had been notified that initial screening of a local resident who has COVID-19 has shown the person has the markers consistent with the Omicron variant.

Although Omicron has not yet been confirmed in this individual, Bocking said this screening means it is "highly likely" that this is an Omicron variant infection. This individual lives in Northumberland County, making this the first potential case of Omicron identified in a resident of the health unit's region.

Hockey team outbreaks

"Across multiple health unit jurisdictions, over the last couple of weeks, we have had a number of outbreaks identified among hockey teams, mostly associated with hockey tournaments," Bocking said. "There does not seem to be transmission as much on the ice as much as there is in hotels or other settings where teams might interact with other teams, or you have parents/guardians of players that are interacting with each other, but we have seen multiple tournaments associated with increased COVID case numbers. And so I think as we look at the next couple of weeks and we look at the introduction of the Omicron variant, we are highly encouraging [everyone] to be quite cautious in their interactions and re-evaluating current restrictions related to activities.

As of the Dec. 15 briefing, 2,686 cases of COVID-19 had been reported in the HKPR region since the pandemic began. At the time of the briefing there were 59 active cases - two in Haliburton County, 36 in City of Kawartha Lakes and 21 in Northumberland County - and 135 high-risk contacts.

The incidence rate was 36.2 per 100,000 people – three weeks ago, that was five cases per 100,000, and Bocking noted that in Kingston where there has been exponential growth and a nation-high surge, the incidence rate was 350 cases per 100,000.

'In summary, if I had to describe really what we're seeing in terms of cases locally, we are seeing a steady increase now associated with both a higher number of outbreaks, but also a higher number of cases in total, including broader community transmission of COVID-19," Bocking said.

In the 14 days prior to the briefing, 115 cases or 23 per cent were identified in those aged zero to nine, and 16 per cent were identified in those aged 40 to 49.

Of the cases identified in the past two weeks, 30 per cent were household contacts, 18 per cent were close contacts and 18 per cent had no known source.

Pediatric vaccination slowing down

In the past two weeks, 85 per cent of those aged 12 and older in the region have received two doses of vaccine, and 87.3 per cent had received one dose, while among the age five to 11 group, 24.3 per cent have received their first dose.

"When COVID-19 eligibility first opened up for five to 11 year-olds, we did see very good uptake, appointments filled quickly and clinics were full," Bocking said. "After about the first two weeks that has calmed significantly and we see much slower uptake among this age group, or among the parents or guardians that are signing them up to be vaccinated. This isn't surprising, we know that parents and guardians are extra cautious in terms of children. This is the pattern, kind of historically when other new vaccinations are introduced for this age group. We do know that there continues to be close attention paid to the safety of the vaccine and effectiveness in this age group and it continues to demonstrate a good safety profile, and it's certainly - as indicated by the general numbers we see - important to continue to offer vaccines for this age group."

Booster eligibility opened up for those 18 and older as of Dec. 20, and Bocking said an additional 4,000 appointments would be opening this week, with potentially additional clinics added.

By the numbers

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The 30-foot spruce tree originally given to Bob and Noreen Bishop by their children close to 20 years ago when it was just eight-feet in height was ceremonially lit up with lights by new owner Doug Wilkinson in tribute to their memories



Rhubarb on the Hill's runner Olivia Villamere was serving plenty of food for the Sir Sam's Christmas Tree Lighting Fundraiser



New owner of Sir Sam's Ski and Ride Doug Wilkinson said lighting the 30-foot spruce tree was in tribute to the late-Bob and Noreen Bishop, who received the tree as a gift from their children close to 20 years ago. Sir Sam's Christmas Tree Lighting Fundraiser was held on Saturday, Dec. 18 in Eagle Lake. The event, which included live music, helped to raise \$2,075 for SIRCH Community Services. This is enough to feed 207 people a home-cooked Christmas dinner (turkey, vegetables and potatoes). This exceeded the event's goal to raise enough for 100 people. /DARREN LUM Staff



J.D. Bishop donates money at the Sir Sam's Christmas Tree Lighting Fundraiser on Saturday,

Dysart et al proposed budget calls for 7.5% residential tax increase

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

Residents in Dysart et al could see a 7.5 per cent increase to their municipal tax bill in 2022, unless councillors make changes to a proposed budget.

The potential increase was discussed at a special meeting for the Municipality of Dysart et al council, held virtually on Dec. 10.

A second budget meeting is scheduled for Jan. 14, 2022, and a third budget meeting, if necessary, could take place on Feb. 11. These meetings will give more opportunity for councillors to scrutinize the budget and possibly find savings.

While closing out the Dec. 10 meeting, Mayor Andrea Roberts said the next budget meetings will allow council and staff "to do slightly deeper digging," on budget

However, it's common for Dysart et al residents to see yearly increases on their tax rate. A presentation by treasurer Barbara Swannell showed that the municipa tax levy has increased steadily, from slightly more than \$8 million in 2018, to more than \$10 million in 2021. The proposed budget would see the levy exceed \$11 million

It would mean that a residential property, assessed at \$100,000, would be charged \$319.92 cents in 2021, an

A business of the same value would pay \$474.34, an increase of \$33.33. An industrial property would pay \$549.64, an increase of \$38.62. The tax levy for Haliburton County and for education has yet to be determined.

Due to COVID-19, there has been no recent reassessment of property values, so properties will be charged based on their 2016 assessments, Swannell said.

There are several reasons for the increase and Swannell suggested that the pandemic played a large role. She said work connected to COVID-19 planning led to 4,131 staff hours, the equivalent of two full-tin tions. Also, to cite examples of how COVID-19 affected the budget, she pointed out that revenue generated from the municipality's arena and its medical centre parking lot were down, compared to past years.

The proposed budget increase raised the ire of Councillor John Smith, who requested that councillors be given more information about proposed staffing increases, so council can debate the merits of each posi-

"Council's going to have to look at the whole budget and make difficult decisions," he said. "A tax increase of 7.5 per cent is not viable in my opinion."

Schools return to semesters

NICK BERNARD

Staff Reporter

Trillium Lakelands District School Board director of education Wes Hahn gave his last COVID-19 update for 2021 ahead of the winter break at the final meeting on Dec. 14. He reported that, while they were seeing a decline in cases in Muskoka and Haliburton, numbers were increasing in Kawartha Lakes, and that the board would continue to monitor the situation.

Regarding cases in the schools, Hahn reported no active cases at the secondary school level. He also reported that all previously reported outbreaks have since been resolved. Hahn said that vaccinating those aged five to 11 will help to keep the case counts as low as they are now, despite an increase in cases in some communities.

"We know that the vaccination of the five- to 11-yearolds are a big part of this," Hahn said. "If the secondary schools are a reflection of what can happen with the vaccination rates and all the other things, then we're hoping that will happen with our five- to 11-year-olds."

Hahn said students were sent home with rapid antigen testing kits at the start of the winter break.

"Each student will get a kit that they will be using . over the course of the holidays to test to ensure that

they're ... not carrying the COVID virus," Hahn said.
The test, Hahn specified, is for students only, and that kits for staff are not yet available. He said that the board will be monitoring that particular dimension of the situation and promised to provide an update in the future.

Hahn also wanted to reassure parents and staff that, should the plan to return to school change over the holiday break, schools were well-prepared to allow staff and students to return to the building to collect their belong-

In an email to the Echo, TLDSB communications officer Sinead Fegan confirmed that schools were still



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Huskies give back

Haliburton County Huskies captain Nathan Porter, at left, signs an autograph for a young fan following the game against the visiting Cobourg Cougars on Saturday, Dec. 18 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The team also invited a Highland Storm minor hockey team to tour the dressing room. /DARREN LUM

planning to return in-person following the break, and that parents would be notified of any changes. "TLDSB follows the directives of the local and provincial health units and the Ministry of Education in relation to all COVID-19 restrictions; at this time we have not been advised by the Medical Officer of Health or by the Minister of Education that schools will be required to close to in-person learning in January," said Fegan. "Should provincial directives change over the holidays, we will communicate to staff and families as promptly as possible. We will also provide opportunities for students and staff to collect items from their schools should we move to online learning in the new year."

Secondary school students, staff consulted on return to semester

Following an announcement in November from Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, schools in the province were given permission to return to the prepandemic semester system.

In a report to the board, TLDSB superintendent Kim Williams said that Trillium Lakelands put a pause on proceeding with that return until the second school term, saying that principals across the board would take "a measured approach to the decision making in order to determine what was in the best interest of our students."

"Principals engaged in a wide range of conversations with students about semesters versus quadmesters," Williams said. "We opted for conversations with students, instead of a survey, to allow principals to more fully engage students in a discussion about the pros and the cons of both systems."

Williams said the objective was to achieve a deeper understanding of the impact of both systems on student learning. She said staff were consulted in the same man-

"While many students enjoyed quadmesters, many others preferred the semestered system, where they could spend more time learning the key concepts to help with their retention of material for future use," she said.

The benefit of having more time to learn and retain information was also echoed by teachers and principals.

"Additionally, moving to semesters provides a common lunch hour, which will better facilitate the ability for schools to offer support for students at lunch, and to continue with extra-curricular activities," Williams said.

Ultimately, Williams said, it was decided that a return to a semester schedule was best for student learning.

"Given this advice, and the fact that there are no current cases [of COVID] in our high schools, we've made the decision to return to a semestered system in February," Williams concluded.

Jersey Day raises funds for board-wide wellness initiative

At the outset of his director's report, Wes Hahn reported that November's board-wide Jersey Day fundraiser to benefit the Feed all Four Fund raised a grand total of \$8,454

The next TLDSB meeting will be the Committee of the Whole meeting on Jan. 11 at the Muskoka Education





High-tech can help prepare for high water

LiDAR and bathymetric data allows conservation authority to get clear picture of region's flood plain

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

When the water rises, it can be dangerous and damaging to properties and homes, but gathering good data provides a great defence.

That was the gist of a highly scientific presentation by Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority officials to Haliburton County council.

The presentation by watershed services coordinator Cory Harris and remote sensing specialist Ian Jeffrey, which was transmitted virtually at the Dec. 15 county meeting, showed how new technology is helping the conservation authority get a clearer understanding of flood plains throughout the county.

The new data that's been gathered will ensure municipal planners are better prepared for floods, as they'll have a deeper understanding of the shape of land and know what homes and properties are at risk and how the rising water will likely behave.

Recent applications for senior government funding has come through, allowing for Ganaraska Conservation to embark on a LiDAR data acquisition project along the Gull and Burnt River systems.

LiDAR stands for light detection and ranging. LiDAR data can be gathered when an airplane with lasers flies over land and water. The lasers detect the contour of the Earth below and the data it collects generates colour-coded, seemingly 3D images, which give a sense of the height of buildings and vegetation relative to the land's surface.

We have high quality LiDAR everywhere there's a flood line, so that flood line is well understood and defensible," Jeffrey said.

Ganaraska Conservation also received funding to gather bathymetric data for the Gull and Burnt River watersheds. This data is similar to LiDAR but is gathered through sonar technology and focuses just on water bodies. That technology is attached to a remotecontrolled water vessel.

This data acquisition project is still ongoing, but "so far it looks really good," Jeffrey said.

The data will be used to create models of the flood plains. Those models "will show how the river will leave its banks, which shows how that behaviour will play out over time and ultimately give you good data to put into your planning process.

If history is any indication, these data projects will be put to good use. Flooding episodes have happened along the Gull and Burnt River water systems in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019. As a result, a partnership was formed between Haliburton County, Ganaraska Conservation and the nearby Kawartha Conservation to gather stronger data.

The study area for these data gathering projects covered 2,800 square kilometres of drainage area, including 23 lakes and 42 dams.

But the work isn't over. The hydraulic models that the data creates will go through a peer review process in 2022, Harris said. Dams and structures in the project area are also subject to ongoing surveying. As the conservation authority now has precise information on how water can rise, it can maintain them properly.

Some Haliburton County councillors seemed impressed by the presentation. Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin shared that his home was threatened by intense flooding in 2013. That event started a movement to gather new information and the current projects are the end of an important "nine-year journey," he said. "Certainly, the expertise that your group brings to this



We have high quality LiDAR everywhere there's a flood line, so that flood line is well understood and defensible.

remote sensing specialist, lan Jeffrey

piece cannot be understated. It's exciting to see this get to this point."

Haliburton County director of planning Steven Stone said when the projects are fully complete, he expects information on the flood plain to be released to the public. The data will also likely influence future policy and planning, as the county will know where it's not safe to

"It will drive community development in the future," he said.

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

'Tis the season to show you care

E'VE ALL endured and lost so much this year. There's a strangeness to seeing someone one day and learning about that same person dying not long after. It's bittersweet to know you were gifted the opportunity to see someone in their final moments or days, but it also makes one heady with wonder about why was I afforded the oppor-

It really is a gift when you think of how there are loved ones who didn't get to say goodbye to them before they died.

It's well documented the struggles that face people at this festive time of year. That's not a surprise. What I found alarming was

how many people in this community have died in the past several months, whether through illness or by tragedy. All of them are felt.

Let's remember there are those that can't be with loved ones, or won't know how someone is doing or if they even still think of them through circumstance or by choice. The pain is heart wrenching.

For those fortunate to have loved ones together

and to share in the season this year, whether it's sitting by the fire place or to simply gathering to eat a meal together, it's a good time to take stock and value these times. Remember not everyone is feeling very joyful, having one less family member at the dinner table at Christmas.

Working through loss can make one feel unable to even know the help they need, let alone ask for it.

There are people out there alone struggling with their thoughts of selfdoubt and guilt.

This past Dec.14 Haliburton lost one its own after a vehicle collision on Highway 35 north of Lindsay. Haliburton's Robert Clark, 64, was taken that day from us. Rob was more than a name in a news article to people that loved him and remembered him. The dozens of social media comments is proof of that. He was a father and husband, who loved to fish, hunt and garden. Originally from Kitchener,

Ontario, his daughter said he had a way with people, who shared he could make them laugh. Many know him through what was the Jay Lake Tent and Trail Park (now Woods of Minden Hills on County Road 21) when he owned it with Jean Clark, and Lois and Syd Adamson, or the Trillium Lakelands District School Board, who he worked for in custodial and maintenance duties at different schools such as Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School since the mid-1980s. If you've golfed at the Pinestone Resort's golf course then you've seen some of his other work, having helped with the creation of holes 15 through

to 18. What his daughter will remember are their excursions on his four-wheeler when they would make trips down the Haliburton County Rail Trail enveloped by the natural beauty of the area around Ritchie

Behind the names are people and their stories like this one.

There is loss during life. Mental degradation of aging parents, who no longer recognize you has a depth of sorrow

that can weigh like an anvil on one's chest until the next visit. This stings in ways immeasurable to the heart and difficult to convey to those that don't know the blank stare from a parent that helped console you during the first week of kindergarten.

None of us have to be alone even when we stay close to home to keep others safe. We can come together to move forward during this fifth wave.

Give the gift of hope this season. It costs nothing and just takes a few minutes. Hug the one you're with (in your COVID-19 bubble). Call the one you've not seen in a while. Go to that neighbour down the street and open your heart (at a socially safe distance). Do it for them, but do it for us. We need this more than ever. A strong community that comes together stays together. We all have love to give and could mean more to you to share it with others than you'll ever know.



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Ripples in the sky

by Darren Lum

IM AND I live in our home at the end of Riverside where we have been for 31 years. It is our little piece of paradise in the world. We overlook the Great Green Meadow, we have lots of birds that come to our feeders, we have lovely, lovely neighbours and our home is cozy and filled with things made by our friends and family. We love to walk our dog. Jim is busy with woodworking projects. At this time of year, I love to sit quietly and enjoy the

lights, Christmas music and a good cup of coffee. We live a simple life, and it works for us.

This is the first year that our daughter, Madeline, will not be coming home for Christmas. She works for the Kingston Association for Community Living and she has shifts on Christmas Eve, Christ-

mas Day, and Boxing Day. She loves the job and is having so much fun getting ready for Christmas with the people she serves (PSS). They have been writing letters to Santa, putting up the tree, decorating the house, planning menus, shopping for gifts and watching Christmas movies. She is in Kingston where the COVID numbers are high. She is smart and follows all protocols to ensure her health, and the health of the PSS and her fellow co-workers.

One of our family traditions is to light the four advent candles in December. They represent hope, joy, love, and peace - the order changes depending on who you talk to. Each candle

gives us something to talk about and focus on for the week. We lit the love candle last week and I happened to be taking a course that was about how we can each bring a "cosmic sized love" to our ordinary, everyday, simple lives. How can we bring love to ourselves, our families, our friends, our community, and the planet? In the course they asked us what are the things we do in December to remember that we are loved, to remember that we are con-

> nected to all of life? To remember what we love and what we are passionate about. How can we let love be the priority in our lives? I was talking to Madeline the other night and she was full of stories about her Christmas and the PSS. The staff have lots of surprises planned for them. Madeline organized matching pyjamas for

everyone in the house for Christmas morning

As she told me this, we reminisced about all the years that Mrs. Claus left her pyjamas (and one year a beautiful hand-knitted blanket, thanks Beth) on Christmas Eve. She always loved that tradition and is passing it on. Cosmic sized love in her ordinary everyday job.

I am not going to lie, I miss her and her liveliness, but am so grateful to her and everyone who is spreading love at this time of year, and all year. Love is what is going sustains us and helps us to grow. We are love. Every one



Tales from

lynda shadbolt

points of view

Santa: the definitive interview

LEARLY, WE are living in strange times. But that's the holiday season right?

So, as a public service, I contacted representatives at the North Pole, where Santa's multi-national organization is headquartered, and eventually was put in touch with the jolly old elf. Then I asked the type of hard-hitting questions that we journalists are known for. I pulled no punches. I did not worry about being naughty or nice. I just wanted to ensure that the guy who sneaks into our house once a year is indeed trustworthy.

Here's what I found. Galea: Hello, Santa.

Santa: Hello, Stephen. Before we begin, let me just say I still can't give you that \$40,000 English-made side-by-side shotgun. You haven't been that good.

Galea: OK, I get that. But why socks?

Santa: You were that good.

Galea: Let's begin then. Many people wonder why in this age of efficiency, television special footages depict you landing on one

house and then fly a random distance away to another house. Why not just go from one house to the neighbour's



steve galea

Santa: It's all about predictability. When you are as famous as I am, the paparazzi hound you incessantly. I don't want to give those weasels who are all on the naughty list, by the way – any chance to sell photos to the National Enquirer. That's how the rumour about me kissing your mommy started.

Galea: My mommy? Santa: Yes. I thought you knew. Galea: She told me it was Dad in a Santa Claus suit...

Santa: Oh, yes. That's right.... Sure it was

Galea: OK. Next question. a lot of us are wondering how any one man can consume the amount of milk and cookies you do in one night. How is that humanely possible?

Santa: First of all, I've seen you put me to shame every time you visit an all-you-can-eat buffet. But to answer your question, I fast for two days before Christmas. Also, there aren't as many as you think. Dads wait up for me a lot since that rumour about me kissing your mommy circulated. And while they are waiting, they tend to eat the milk and cookies with my name on it. That's why most of them get socks.

Galea: My mommy huh?

Santa: Relax. It was just a rumour....

Galea: Let's move on. What about the reindeer? Every one of them is a trophy buck that would make top 10 in the record books. Aren't you the least bit tempted?

Santa: I'm more of a fisherman. Plus, Mrs. Claus is not a fan of

Galea: Can you explain Rudolph's nose?

Santa: We needed lighting for safe landings and designated air-space. One of our elves used to work for Radio Shack. He created the flashing nose. Rudolph drew the short straw.

Galea: Why the North Pole? Why not somewhere closer to your

Santa: It provides significant tax advantages and the labour laws regarding elves are a bit more corporate friendly.

Galea: How do you keep track of all the people on earth and

whether they are naughty or nice?

Santa: We used to have a massive Naughty or Nice Department that employed thousands of elves. Now we outsource the job to

Amazon and Google. A lot of those elves got jobs there.
Galea: How do you fit down chimneys and isn't that a health and safety issue?

Santa: It's always a tight fit but a liberal combination of lard and gravity always seem to do the job. As for safety, I wear a fire retardant suit and have learned to stop, drop and roll. Plus, that always gets the fire starter on the naughty list.

Galea: What if there isn't a chimney? Santa: There's always the front door.

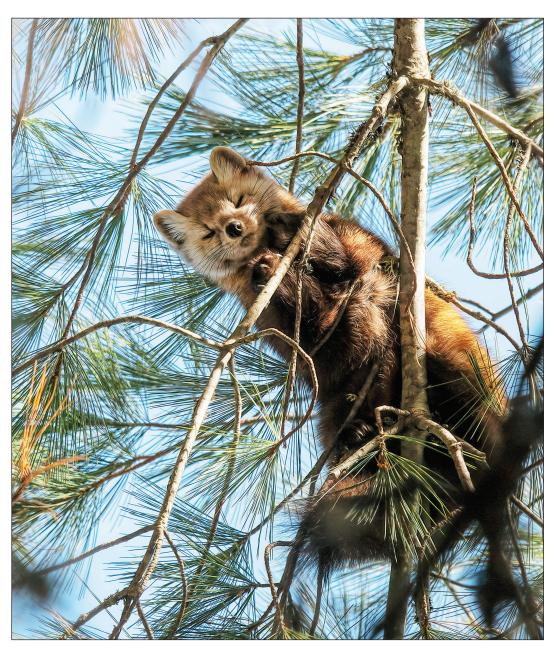
Galea: How do you fit so many presents in one sleigh? Santa: My elves trained with the FedEx people.

Galea: Why the red suit and the long white beard? Santa: I was thinking of changing it, but the Christmas card industry paid me not to. Plus, your mom likes it....



pic of the past

s part of the Haliburton Highlands Museum Advent Calendar series posted to Twitter, this photo for day 15 shows Marjorie Finch, the daughter of the local Baptist minister, along with her mother, Amy, and Amy's mother, Eliza, all bundled up in the family's cutter in the Village of Haliburton around 1910. The Finch family lived in the village from 1906-1918. This image and information was republished with permission from the @HH_Museum page on Twitter. Submitted by Kate Butler, Haliburton Highlands Museum



Dean caught napping

Photographer Tammy Nash: Soft Dean, warm Dean, little ball of fur! Happy Dean, sleepy Dean, purr, purr, purr! Nash captured this pine marten sunbathing in a pine tree. She calls all pine martens "Dean Martin" after the famous mid-20th century actor, comedian and singer. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

Committee recommends integrated waste management plan

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

Some Haliburton County officials want to make sure taxpayer money isn't wasted in waste management - and as a result an integrated plan for all four municipalities may soon come.

Action was taken on this plan at a recent Haliburton County service review steering committee meeting, held virtu-

Committee members recommended a consultant be hired to review waste management operations in Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills. The resolution they voted on called for a request for proposals to be prepared.

Fifty per cent of the costs of the project would be absorbed by Haliburton County; the other 50 per cent would be divided equally between the four municipalities. The project, however, cannot start unless it's approved by Haliburton County council, plus the councils of each of the four municipalities.

But some members of the steering committee - who also happen to be municipal politicians - said there's some urgency to get the project rolling.
A report to the committee showed that

a transition to an integrated program would take two to five years and, within that time frame, the province is expected to mandate new changes on how land-

"I think we need the information sooner than later, so we can make medium- and long-term plans," Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin said. Committee chairperson and Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielson agreed.

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt also reiterated the urgency, saying that "big changes" are coming in the world of waste management. That could involve new recycling programs or compost programs. The challenge of bringing in these new programs, she said, is complicated by the fact that different landfills in the county are at different stages of their lifespan.

"The sooner we can set a path for future service for the community, the better," she said.

The work of the winning consultant is expected to cost between \$50,000 and \$70,000. The work would involve coming up with a list of "assets" and analyzing their values and liability. It would also involve comparing and contrasting exist-ing programs and how they could be integrated and proposing different integrated service models and seeing "which model is most suited for the county," the



Santa's helpers unite

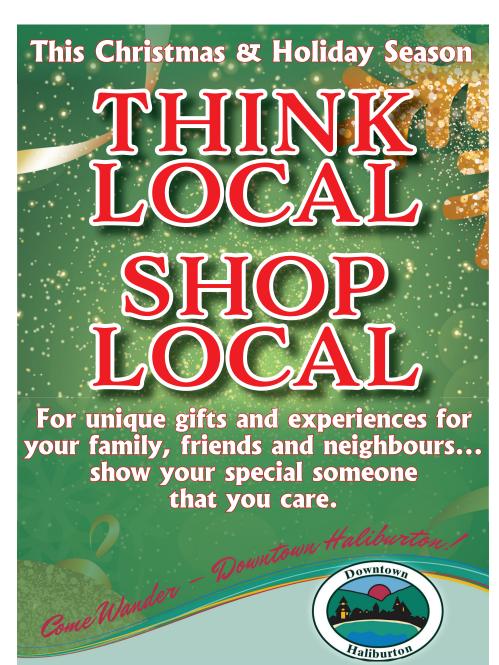
Jan Pierson prepares a Christmas hamper as part of the 26th Annual Christmas Challenge at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church in Haliburton last week. Donations from across Haliburton helped make the holidays bright for dozens of families, who collected toys, gift cards, and more on Dec. 16. The Challenge takes community donations and includes them in Christmas hampers. It is made possible by the collaboration between the Haliburton County Home Builders Association and the Haliburton 4Cs, who helps with organization for distribution of the hampers to the Haliburton 4Cs Food Bank, the Minden Community Food Bank, and the Central Food Network based in Wilberforce./NICK BERNARD Staff



Marianne Dykstra prepares toys donated by the community for the Christmas Challenge at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church. Families were able to collect presents for various age



Debbie Robertson, from left, Rosemary Shivji, and Faye Corscadden help prepare the rows of tables with toys and other gifts for the Christmas Challenge.



Highlands East construction values for 2021 ends year shy of \$40 million

CHRIS DROST

Staff Reporter

The following are briefs about the Municipality of Highlands East council meeting held via YouTube on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

It was a year for construction. The Municipality of Highlands East saw construction values rocket to \$39,712,814, which is a significant increase to last year's construction value of \$11,691,620.

"Are you going to make us wait until 2022 to get to \$40 million? Great job,' Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall said.

In 2021, 191 building permits were issued in Highlands East, including 51 for dwellings and 140 for other. This compares to a total of 187 in 2020, 23 for dwellings, and 164 for other. The number of permits for sewage systems was also up over 2020, 118 this year and 92 last year. A total of 106 final inspections have been completed to date in 2021.

Admin busy with budgets and election planning

CAO/treasurer Shannon Hunter is busy meeting with all the managers regarding department budgets in preparation for presentations to council in Jan-

Ćlerk Robyn Rogers is also busy with election preparations. Earlier this year council approved phone and internet voting for the upcoming municipal elections in 2022. A request for proposals went out and five bids came in. The clerks scored them individually and then as a team. The criteria they used to score them was demonstrated experience and experience of staff being assigned to the project, references, professionalism and quality of product, features and specification quality of responsiveness of submission and pricing. Pricing from the five bids ranged from \$2.39 to \$2.92 per elector plus HST.

Council approved the clerks' recom-

mendation that the contract be awarded to Scytl Canada. Rogers explained that they were able to demonstrate their wealth of experience dealing with phone and internet voting in several municipal elections and have developed their own system. They have a high level of security and risk management. The price is \$2.75 plus HST per voter, which includes mailing of voter cards with a personal identification number. The total contract is estimated to be \$24,827, but it may be higher due to the influx of new residents in the past year. The municipality has been putting funds in reserve each year to cover these costs.
"You know I had concerns way back

about phone and internet voting. When can we see how this will be rolled out? I am concerned we may have to help some people with voting," Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall said. Rogers explained that they have already started putting information on the website. There will also be a brochure that will be sent out with all the tax bills, with an educational component. "By sending them out through the tax bill we will hit everyone in the municipality," Rogers said.

This company will also have things that can be used through social media. Other areas are also using phone and internet voting and so Rogers says that the message will be county-wide.

Contract awarded for Cardiff sewage works

In a brief environmental report, environmental supervisor Megan Lockwood reported that all operations have been going smoothly. Both the Dyno Estates and Cardiff drinking water systems have been issued a renewed certificate of accreditation under the Drinking Water Quality Standard as a result of the two systems' audits that were conducted earlier in the year. Additionally, the posting for an assistant environmental operator has closed and they are in the process of reviewing applications.

Council also approved the recommendation for awarding the contract for the Cardiff Sewage Works to the Ontario Clean Water Agency in the amount of \$18,048. "I was surprised how low the quote was. That is a good thing," Councillor Cam McKenzie said.

Garbage and recycling contract awarded

CAO/treasurer Shannon Hunter informed council that they went out for tender for the contract for garbage and recycling services for Cardiff Townsite and Bicroft Heights. One proposal was received from Garbutt Enterprises in the amount of \$42,000 plus HST. Councillor Cam McKenzie asked what the cost was last year. Hunter indicated that it was in the neighbourhood of \$41,000 so this is in line with that. "You can't get better than that," Councillor Cam McKenzie said. "They also do an excellent job," Mayor Dave Burton added.

Farr Road bridge on IB&O trail to be

Council directed staff to hire an engineer to inspect the Farr Road bridge on the IB&O trail. Economic development coordinator Joanne Vanier is trying to obtain additional quotes from engineers. The one received to date is for \$2,200 for the inspection only. It is expected that the inspection may not be possible until the spring.

Calls to fire department down in November

There were 24 calls for November and 236 calls to date in 2021, down from the 314 calls in November of 2020.

Property and facilities report

Jim Alden, property supervisor, reported that the cemeteries have been busier this year than last. They have sold 32 cemetery plots and two niches, while only 12 plots were sold in 2020. There were 29 interments in 2021 compared to 17 in 2020.

Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall asked whether there is anything the municipality needs to do about renting in light of the Omicron variant. Alden indicated this would be looked after by the emer-

Public Works ready to go for winter maintenance

Operations supervisor Brett Charboneau informed council that most of the recent work on the roads has been sanding, with a little bit of plowing. "We are fully ready for winter and ready to go," Charboneau said.

Council approved the declaration of the 2010 International plow truck and the 2011 Ford 250 pick-up truck surplus, and authorized sale through online ads such as Kijiji or marketplace.

Cemetery price list to be separated from bylaw

Clerk Robyn Rogers explained that previously the cemetery fees had been included in the Cemetery Bylaw. It has been determined that the price list should be separated from the bylaw. After a review of prices in other municipalities, Highlands East prices have been increased. Rogers explained that non-resident costs will be higher to try to preserve cemetery plots for local property owners. Because the prices have been less in Highlands East than in other areas, it has resulted in people from outside the area purchasing the lower cost plots. Disinterment fees have been added as well as winter interment. Green burials in winter are not included as they have not yet been officially approved by council and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario

'It looks like a Walmart shopping list. Do we have any idea what a typical cost would be? From the items listed, who puts that together?" Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall asked. Rogers explained that the funeral home takes care of that part. The municipality is responsible for the sale of the property and the interment. Fees are paid up front for the service.

Council approved the price list which will come into effect on Jan. 1, 2022.

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Storm under-11 rep player Travis Rowe, who scored three goals, maintains possession after falling to his knees against the visiting Newcastle Stars.



Highland Storm under-11 rep player Brycen Harrison, who had an assist, battles for a loose puck against Newcastle Stars defender Camden Muirhead.



Storm outshine Stars

Rowe celebrates one of his three goals scored against the visiting Newcastle Stars on Thursday, Dec. 16 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The Storm won 6-2 and improved to 6-3-0. Storm goals were also scored by Duncan Evans-Fockler, Cruize Neave, and Hawksley Dobbins. Assists came from Rowe, Evans Fockler, Brycen Harrison, Lyla Degeer (two), Hunter Hamilton (two), and Tyler Hughes. Rowe has 16 goals this season. Storm goalie Colten Simms earned the win. /DARREN LUM Staff



nominations of no less than \$100. The Grand prize total is not to exceed \$1500. Ballots must be received by authorized Haliburton BIA merchant. Prize must be accepted as awarded and may not be substituted or converted to cash.



Huskies down Canadiens and Cougars

Move within two points of division lead

ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Echo

The Haliburton County Huskies gave their fans a rare treat in the hockey world, two back-to-back home games on back-to-back days. Playing host to their first ever meeting against the Toronto Jr. A Canadiens on Friday, Dec. 17 and facing off against the Cobourg Cougars for the final time on Saturday, Dec. 18 Huskies fans got their money's worth as both

games were a spectacle to behold.

On Friday, the Huskies jumped out to an early lead. Lucas Stevenson buried a feed from Oliver Tarr close to a minute in the game to give the hometown team the early lead. Two minutes later and Peyton Schaly doubled that lead, with Highland Storm alumnus Ryan Hall picking up an

Bryce Richardson closed out a three goal run for the Huskies, before Liam Fedek got the Canadiens on the board at 17:36 of the first.

The second period saw only one goal, coming off the stick of Huskies forward Christian Stevens. However, the penalties were through the roof. In total, 10 separate penalties were awarded with seven and game misconduct going Toronto's way and three going against the Huskies.

Toronto's Matthew Wilde was ejected from the game following a hit from behind on a Huskies player, while team-

see HUSKIES page 12



Haliburton County Huskies forward Patrick Saini attempts to poke the puck in to the net with Toronto Jr. A Canadiens players Hayden Heinrich and goalie Selby Warren looking on helpless during Ontario Junior Hockey League action on Friday, Dec. 17 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The goal on this play was credited to Christian Stevens, which was the eventual game-winner as the Huskies





Haliburton County Huskies player Christian Stevens, who was credited with the game-winner, salutes the crowd.



The fans of the Haliburton County Huskies applaud the team after the game. /DARREN LUM Staff

Huskies gift fans with win over OJHL powerhouse Canadiens

from page 11

mates Ben Loretto and Brad Ditillo combined for five different penalties. The Canadiens added two more goals late in the third, one with the net empty, to cut the lead down to one late. The Huskies would prove too much for Toronto, as Haliburton County went on to win a fifth straight.

Friday saw another rematch against the Cobourg Cougars. The Cougars have yet to beat Haliburton County at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, with the closest

result being a 3-3 tie back in November.
That being said, the Cougars and Huskies went scoreless in the first.

At 6:42 in the second, the deadlock was broken. Cougars player George Krotiris fired home a shot which snuck past Christian Cicigoi, giving the visitors the lead as the teams returned to the locker

The Huskies have a calling card it seems, in many a game they give up the first goal but storm back for the win. This game was no exception.

With the Cougars goaltender Justin Easter making highlight reel save after highlight reel save, the Huskies threw everything they had at him. A total of 50 shots were pelted at Easter by the Huskies, and eventually his luck ran out.

Schaly kicked off the festivities, streaking down the right side wing to get a



Haliburton County Huskies forward Lucas Stevenson watches the puck with

Toronto Jr. A Canadiens

on Friday, Dec. 17 at the

the faceoff during Ontario

forward Liam Fedak, following

Junior Hockey League action

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

The Huskies edged out the Canadiens 4-3. /DARREN LUM

clear shot at Easter.

Cutting across the net, Schaly found some daylight and the sellout crowd was brought to their feet.

The physical play was amped up ten-

fold, as West Guilford's Joe Boice was slinging his body around delivering three monster hits. As the clock ticked away, both teams were growing ever so hungry for the go-ahead goal.

That goal came with 2:41 left to go in the third, and it would come off the stick of co-OJHL leading goal scorer Oliver Tarr. Getting the puck at centre ice, Tarr was sent streaking down the right wing. Instead of cutting across, Tarr fired a powerful shot top shelf to give the Huskies their first lead of the night.

Patrick Saini added the empty netter to seal the deal for the Huskies, who claimed win number six in a row.

"That was 110 per cent playoff hockey," coach Ryan Ramsay said. "This oup is special, they are resistant and they work hard non-stop. Doesn't matter what the score is, this team finds ways to win. Our guys have a lot of character in the room and we have a good mix of size, speed and strength, so that's helped us string wins together and I'm really

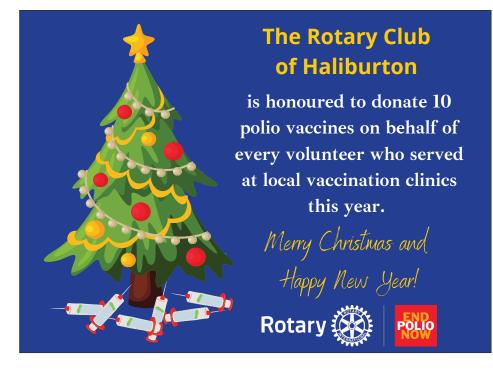
For Schaly, he has started to hit his stride as a member of the Huskies. Since being acquired from Wellington, the Barrie, Ontario forward has eight goals as a member of the team and is on a run of four games in a row with a goal scored.

"We got something really special here," Schaly said. "The fans give us so much energy and make it so hard for other teams to play in this building. We feel like a championship team and I think if we stick to our systems we will keep winning like this."

With his 23rd goal of the season, Tarr sits tied atop the league lead. Only his second goal in the past five games, Tarr commented on the brewing rivalry between the teams having played each other nearly eight times before the holiday break.

'It was a hard fought game," Tarr said. "We have played Cobourg so many times before Christmas and the rivalry is going to be there. We like to run and gun and play physical hockey. We've come out on top in the last few contests, so that's always going to the stir the pot a little bit."

The Huskies will now officially take a break for Christmas and pending any public health changes, are set to return Dec. 29 in Mississauga to take on the Chargers before returning to the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on New Year's Eve for a 2:30 p.m. matinee against the Caledon Admirals.





Haliburton and District Lions Club members Betty Mills, from left at back, husband David, and Gail Stelter presented books as part of the Blue Spruce Award Reading Program to Stuart Baker Elementary School prinicipal Karyn Linton Marra, who was joined by students Ethan Chong, Gavin Suke, Danika Kerkhof, Keagen King and Chloe Featherstonehough. This program, which is part of the Forest of Reading Program, is a primary reading program developed by the Ontario Library Association. /DARREN LUM Staff



From left, Lions Club members David Mills, Betty Mills, Wilberforce Elementary School Principal Barb Davies, and Lions Club member Gail Stelter hold books from the Blue Spruce Award Reading Program. The books were donated to Cardiff and Stuart Baker elementary schools on Dec. 16. /NICK BERNARD Staff

Lions Club contributes to literacy with donations

The Haliburton and District Lions Club is bringing the Blue Spruce Award Reading Program to Stuart Baker Elementary School and Cardiff Elementary School. This reading program is part of the Forest of Reading Program, which is organized by the Ontario Library Association and is Canada's largest recreational reading program with participation by schools and students from kindergarten to Grade 12. Ten books are chosen in each level and the Blue Spruce Award books are specifically designed for readers in kindergarten to Grade 2.

Children vote to determine the winning book after they have read all the titles. Participation in the program encourages a love of reading, promotes the development of the skill of evaluating a picture book based on the story and the pictures, and provides high quality books, which remain in the schools. The Haliburton Lions have purchased two sets of the nominated books for Stuart Baker and one set for Cardiff and, in addition, have paid the program registration fee for both

The Blue Spruce Award is a new addition to the Haliburton Lions Reading Action Program, which strives to promote and enhance literacy learning by putting new books in the hands of children. The Lions are excited to work with our local schools and to add this component to our existing programs, which includes new books for children at our Stories in the Park Fun Fair, the donation of books to Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, books for our Childhood Cancer initiatives, gently used books for our Little Free Libraries in West Guilford and at Abbey Gardens, books for the women's shelter; and an annual donation to our Haliburton County Public Library's Dysart branch. We are proud to be able to serve children and our community through our Reading Action Program.

Submitted by Lion Gail Stelter, chairperson Reading Action Program Committee



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and be entered for a chance to win a Huskies game Jersey.

Cordell Carpets' new owners set sights on the future

Staff Reporter

Cordell Carpet spent 40 years under the creation and ownership of Brad Sales, before he handed the keys over to home improvement gurus Tim and Wendy

Pringle. In that time, Cordell has maintained its image as Haliburton's one-stopshop to help with completing home inte-

Now, the torch is passed again, this time to Dan Moulton and his team. Currently, they also run the Home Hardware stores in Minden and Haliburton.

Glen Rickerby is Cordell Carpet's new district general manager. He says building upon Cordell's heritage is a huge part of their vision for the future.

"We're usually very, very involved in ... keeping things the way they are, business as usual," he said. Cordell is also part of Home Hardware's umbrella of companies. With that, Cordell is able to continue its support of the community through donations to the local food bank, the hospital, and more.

"We do tons of donations in the community," he said. "That's just part of who we are, and we like to be local in that

Rickerby also said that a charity golf tournament is in the works, barring any delays from the ongoing pandemic.

The acquisition of Cordell is simply the beginning for the plans the Home Hardware group has for Haliburton. Rickerby says such expansion brings with it an opportunity to boost employment in the

"We're looking at doing maybe a job fair with the Haliburton Homebuilders Association," he said. "So we're trying to work with them in setting up ... a job

He also says expanding during the pandemic has been a challenge, given supply chain delays. However, with the resources available throughout the Home Hardware network across the province, getting supplies from elsewhere is easier.

"Everything you need to expand is either on a six week delay or whatever, Rickerby said, in describing the kinds of delays he's witnessed. "It's been a challenge, but luckily ... we have stores all across Ontario that we own specifically, so ... anything we're kind of short on, we can get from another store.

He says this means customers can still get specific products, even if they're not available at that particular location.

Rickerby says that another aspect he hopes to continue with Cordell Carpet is its position as a local, family-oriented

"You know, a lot of our staff ... we treat them like family," he said. "We like to keep it fun, and vibrant. There's lots of fun programs to participate in."

He described a scholarship for students who work seasonally, offered to the Home Hardware group through government grants..

"So obviously a lot of our staff in the summertime is students," he said. "So we do support a lot of the initiatives that the government has to get students working."

Rickerby also described working with SIRCH Community Services to help find full-time employment for people within the community.

'Any time you can provide jobs ... is a benefit to any community," he said. "So we're always looking to expand and create new roles and give [people] ... quality jobs, too."

Crossword brought to you by

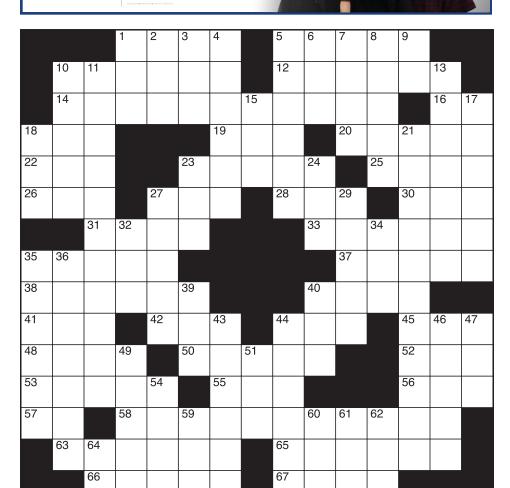


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RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS



- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Chinese Muslim group
- 5. Alternative name
- 10. Resounds
- Supporter
- 14. Furnishes anew
- 16. Beloved Hollywood
- 18. Supervises flying
- 19. Ballplayer's tool
- 20. Coarse edible red seaweed
 - 22. Former CIA
 - 23. Basketball player
 - 25. Travel necessities 26. Honey producer
 - 27. Military analysis
- (abbr.) 28. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 30. Mental sharpness and inventiveness
- 31. Popular Easter meal
- 33. Man (Spanish)
- 35. __ de la __
- 37. Counterweights
- 38. Made a harsh, grating noise
- 40. Monetary unit 41. Commercials
- 42. Cool!
- 44. Partner to cheese
- 45. Expression of creative

- 48. Unit of angle
- 50. Transported
- 52. N. American people of Kansas
- 53. Computer game character Max
- 55. Moved swiftly
- 56. Everyone has one
- 57. Tin
- 58. A mole is one
- 63. Nocturnal hoofed animals
 - 65. Oppositional to
 - 66. Monetary units
 - 67. Not on time
- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Hogshead (abbr.)
- 2. Misery resulting from affliction
- 3. Defunction European group
 - 4. Line on a map
 - 5. Becomes less intense
- 6. Back muscle
- 7. Frosted
- 8. Ethiopian town
- 9. Midway between south and east
- 10. Wipe from the record
 - 11. In a continuous way
- 13. Breathe
- 15. Cleaning device
- 17. Male organ

- 18. Tab on a key ring
- 21. Criminals 23. Taxi
- 24. Cheer of encourage-
- 27. Wartime American escort carrier
- 29. Polish river
- 32. Current unit
- 34. Life form
- 35. Painful contractions
- 36. Glowing
- 39. Press against lightly 40. Melancholic
- 43. Something you can be
- 44. Of the mind
- 46. E. Indian cereal grass
- 47. Couple
- 49. Sharpshoot 51. A baglike structure in
- a plant or animal
- 54. __ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Human gene
- 60. Data mining methodology (abbr.)
- 61. Examines animals 62. Mineral
- 64. Cools your home

Answers on page 17



Stepping up to give

From left, Sgt-At-Arms Derek Moore, Legion president Don Pitman, and Legion executive Mike Waller stand among the donations received by the Legion for its Branch 129 Christmas Food Drive. They delivered the donations to various organizations in the area on Dec. 16. /NICK BERNARD Staff



From left, Legion volunteer Paul Broam, president and Steve Dunec stand beside the truck carrying donations from the Legion's patrons. Branch 129 Christmas Food Drive.

Math students find the formula to make great art

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

Math students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) have found the formula to make great

Students in HHSS teacher Amy Klose's advanced math functions course were recently given an interesting challenge: They were asked to use equations to create an image or animations in a program called Desmos.

"The students' level of engagement and interest in

the task seems to have taken on a life of its own," Klose wrote in an email.

The program gives the students an electronic grid. They then need to write equations to guide the movements of lines they wish to create. The students were asked to use at least 25 equations to complete their artwork, however some students used more than 100 equations. One student created an animation of a beating heart. Others did landscape scenes or other interesting artworks, based on the use of circles and intersecting

Students also had to write an explanation of the mathematics they used to create the piece. It's not an easy task

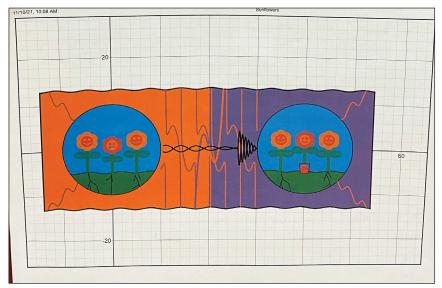
- the course is designed to prepare students for university math – but the students were up for the challenge.

"I am very impressed by their work," Klose wrote. "This year's crew far surpassed my expectations. They took it upon themselves to explore their passions and then use functions to bring their interests to life."

She added that the students learned techniques on their own and shared their knowledge with classmates.

This is complex, time-consuming and incredibly detailed work. This cohort of students has demonstrated a very high level of persistence, collaboration and crea-

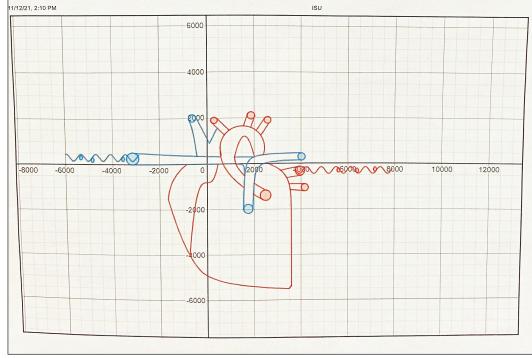




Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Courtney Semach created this image showing flowers. Photo submitted by Brianne Pockett

Rainbow Gate is the creation of a Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student, whose name was withheld.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Bella Smolen created this image of a pumping heart, using Desmos. Submitted by Brianne Pockett







Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! A heartfelt thank you to all my clients, family and friends for an **ROYAL LEPAGE** incredible year. Meadowtowne Realty

HHSS students finding truth behind fiction

Staff Reporter

While the books being read in Christine Carr's Grade 9 English class are works of fiction, the topics and themes they introduce are leading the students to dig deeper and learn more about residential

After the students read The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline, a science fiction novel set in a post-apocalyptic Canada in which Indigenous people are hunted for their marrow, they created posters using quotes from the book to help bring awareness to the importance of Orange Shirt Day. On the posters, which were hung around the school, they included a QR code [a type of barcode that when scanned can link to more information] that led fellow students and staff at HHSS to websites featuring news articles and stories from survivors of residential schools.

Now, while studying As Long as the Rivers Flow, by James Bartleman, which is loosely based on residential schools that existed in northern Ontario, the students have studied residential schools and created an informative display to show what they've learned and help others understand what happened at those schools throughout Canada where unmarked graves are being found.

'A lot of students are surprised by that - they picture the odd one, but then learn they were all over Canada," said Carr. "I think a lot of them have been surprised by how much went on at the schools. They

knew the basics, that there were residential schools, that they were not good. We've had that discussion in class, with the role of fiction, and whether or not it's good to tell these kinds of stories. A lot of students have expressed that it really makes it more real for them, even if it's not a real person, you're still getting how they felt, what they went through, and it kind of makes the experience more real. A lot of them have actually said so far that they've learned more about it and have been surprised by how much they've learned, how horrible the trauma was."

Carr, alongside her fellow HHSS teachers and with a school board consultant, have been giving much consideration to which books are studied in class.

'We're really trying to look at all the texts we do in English classes, and really see what the students can get out of them," she said. "A lot of them have different perspectives, and really bring different equity and justice issues rather than the classic texts they might be used to. Within the last few years, a lot of teachers have been trying to incorporate texts by different authors.

Discussions during study of the texts can be difficult, and Carr wrote home prior to beginning the book study to let parents know the students would be reading about and talking about difficult topics. Parents were all on board, with some noting they thought it was important to talk about this.

"It can be hard at times, really trying

to make sure the classrooms are basically a safe space," she said. "These types of books also come with some difficult topics to talk about. I've found that the students really seem to like learning about things that they feel matter. We talk about the role that youth can play in creating change in the world.'

The students are also reading short stories, poems and will read A Midsummer Night's Dream, by William Shakespeare. Carr notes there has been much debate on whether students should continue read-

ing Shakespeare nowadays.
"You can use it as a way to connect with Shakespeare's time, but a lot of the themes are universal – that's the approach I try to take to it, because there's a lot of things you can still connect to today's world and still learn," she said. "You can learn the impact he made on literature."

Carr said a mix of texts that include contemporary books works well for the students in her class.

"For me I'm just trying to find things that students connect with, and that they walk away feeling they learned something," she said. "Not just, OK, check off another book read. And hopefully it helps inspire them to keep learning and keep growing their own knowledge as well after they leave the classroom. I'm hoping – what I'd love – is that students then seek out books from other authors and different perspectives. Hopefully it helps broadens their reading."



Municipality of Dysart et al 135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,

Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 Telephone: (705) 457-1740 Email: info@dysartetal.ca Website: <u>www.dysartetal.ca</u>

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Wednesday, January 12th 2021 DATE:

TIME: 11:00 am.

LOCATION: The Committee of Adjustment will be held as an electronic

meeting only.

The meeting will be recorded through the conferencing

application and live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2021-027 Holmes & Horton-Holmes

- The following variances are requested legalize the location of their shed, legalize the height of their private cabin and permit a fourth accessory building on a property in the WR4L zone:
 - a) A variance to the provisions of Section 5.2 to permit 3 accessory building (plus 1 one storey building less than 10 square metres in area) as opposed to the permitted maximum of 2 (plus 1 one storey building less than 10 sq. metres in area).
 - b) A variance to the provisions of Section 5.2 to permit an accessory building (shed) to have a minimum water setback of 10.66 metres (35 feet) as opposed to the permitted 20 metres (65.62 feet).
 - c) A variance to the provisions of Section 3.19 (vii) to permit a legal noncomplying private cabin height to be increased by 0.56 metres (1.83 feet) as opposed to the permitted 0 metres (0 feet) for a total structure height of 5.5 metres (17.92 feet).
- Location: Part Lot 7, Concession 4, Part 1, 19R6657 in the Geographic Township of Dudley, in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton (1085 Cascade Trail).

Council passed By-law 2020-69 to amends the Committee of Adjustment of the Municipality of Dysart et al's Procedural By-law to permit electronic participation in There will not be an in-person meeting; this meeting will be conducted in an electronic format only

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Deputy Secretary-Treasurer at dhicks@dysartetal.ca.

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions. A copy of the decision will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Jeff Iles

Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment



HHSS students created a visual display showing the location of residential schools across Canada, with further information about some of the schools and a way to connect online with stories of survivors. The Grade 9 students are studying works by Indigenous authors in English class./Photo submitted by Christine Carr



The EarlyON Child & Family Centre is currently seeking Board Members to serve on the Board of Directors.

We are a non-profit agency that is funded by the Ministry of Education to offer programs for children 0-6 years and their parents, grandparents and caregivers in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County.

- · Volunteer commitment of 2 4 hours per month
- · Presently, virtual meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month - starting at 5:30 p.m.

If interested please contact us P: 705-324-7900 E: admin@oeyc.ca www.oeyc.ca



Child and Family Centre



Shopping spirit takes over village

Singers from St. George's Anglican Church and St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church brought festive cheer with their Christmas carols throughout downtown Haliburton, starting at Glecoff's Family Store and ending at the SIRCH Bistro and Marketplace in Haliburton. The carollers were part of Ladies Shopping Night in Haliburton, which took place on Dec. 9. This event is supported by the village's Business Improvement Area group.



Shoppers from across Haliburton visit local vendors selling craft goods at at the SIRCH Bistro and Marketplace on Ladies Night. Several vendors were peppered throughout the social enterprise as part of Ladies Night.



Wendy Ladurantaye, from left, Linda Kay and Stacy McLean stand behind the festive goodies prepped especially for Ladies Night shoppers. Businesses in Haliburton were open late to help ladies across Haliburton with their last minute Christmas shopping on Dec. 9. /NICK BERNARD Staff



Shoppers stopped to pick up their complimentary Haliburton Highlands shopping bag at the

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Helping hands during outage warms hearts

community news west guilford

Eleanor Cooper 754–2278

A few weeks ago Ron Murphy of Canoe FM asked when I was going to come back after I had stopped doing my readings due to COVID. I was happy to begin a fresh for the "Tell me a Sunday Story" which is now aired at 7:45 a.m. There's lots to choose from around the Christ-

The coming Sunday is the fourth advent which means the candle for love is making its light. I had let myself get low on candles, so was quite unprepared for the darkness when the power failed on Saturday night. However, neighbours came to the rescue with a lamp, which could be switched on, and they had candles as well. Still others

allowed my sister and I to avail ourselves of their home and hospitality.

Cousins of mine took care of the wet inches in the cellar and re-stocked the wood while the wood stove was lighted and kept going. We were so grateful for the arms that reached out to us and saw to the many needs until the power was returned on Tuesday afternoon.

While all this continued Christmas cards kept coming, and kind phone calls arrived and kept up the spirits.

Of course, I am never left without the consolation of books. At the moment Sisters in the wilderness is keeping me company. Catharine Parr Traill and Sussanna Moodie pioneered their way into the bush to build homes and raise families against all odds. Each struggled to keep writing and find publishers for their hard-won literature.

A word of apology to Heritage Ballet's Julie Barban. It was only when I read the latest *Echo* that there was an alternate kind of production of *Nutcracker* available to limited viewers. We surely look forward to the full theatrical performance a year from now. Thanks for keeping the tradition alive Julie.

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Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Full-Time, Part-Time (Permanent and/or Temporary) and Casual staff for the noted classifications below.

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The Registered Nurse earns \$33.90 /hr - \$48.53/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice and one year or more of previous emergency department or specialty department experience is preferred. Temporary accommodation will be provided.

Registered Practical Nurses earn \$30.58 - \$31.75/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

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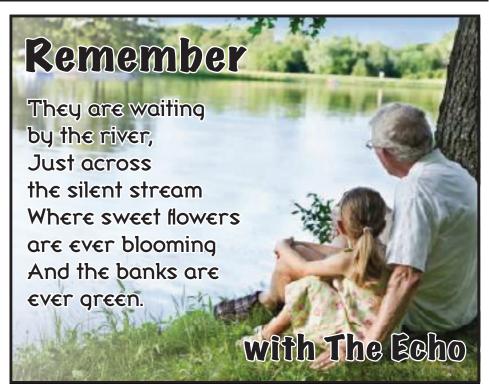
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6**50** obituaries





Lorne Whitney Bailey

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)

Lorne passed peacefully at Highland Wood in Haliburton, Ontario on Sunday evening, December 12, 2021. Beloved husband of Heidi Bailey (nee Wiedl) and by the late Bernice Bailey (nee Kirkpatrick). Loving father to Christine, Sharon

(Grant), and Scott. Missed by his grandchildren, great grandchildren and by his many nieces & nephews. Remembered by his brother Cecil & by his sister Lois. Pre-deceased by his brothers Lloyd, Merrill and by his son Randall.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family are invited to call at HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, Ontario 705-457-9209 on Sunday afternoon, December 19, 2021 for Funeral Service in the Chapel at 2 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). Attendees are required to RSVP to this service as attendance is limited. Proof of your second COVID vaccine and government photo ID is required to attend this event. Masks must be worn. Interment later Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. For those who wish to view the Funeral Service virtually, please click the following link on the day of service 5 minutes prior to service time. https://join.skype.com/ ocn85L5we3bV

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



In Loving Memory of

Robert "Bob" David Clark

Passed away suddenly as the result of a head-on collision with a dump truck on Highway 35 North of Lindsay on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Bob was 64 years old.

Bob was the best friend and loving husband of Mary Lou Clark (nee Austen) for over 13 years. Loving father of Adrienne Clark (Kristian Barry), Adam Clark (deceased 2012), Crystal Austen (Tyler),

Jennifer (Jimmy) Abbott, Jeff Packard, and grandpa to Hannah, Adria, Chloe, Kalli, Brady, Valla and Rylee. Beloved son of Audrey and the late Scottie Clark. Dear brother of Cindy (Lloyd), Kim (Glen), and Ron (Lynn). Lovingly remembered by Sylvain and Joanne and also by his family and friends.

A Memorial Gathering to celebrate Rob's Life will be held at a later date when it is safe to do so. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Kawartha/ Haliburton Victim Services or

to the Ontario Brain Injury Society would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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MATT DUCHENE

TSN captures draft pick's creative side

MATT JAMES

Staff Reporter

For the second time in less than a month, The Sports Network (TSN) has packed its camera gear and headed north to Haliburton to tape a feature about hockey's latest NHL Entry Draft headline-maker, Matt Duchene.

About three weeks ago TSN arrived in Haliburton to film a feature about Duchene, who is now being considered as a number-one pick in the upcoming NHL Entry Draft, along with John Tavares and Victor

Tavares and Hedman have dominated draft headlines all season long. But Duchene's strong finish to the season and playoffs, his two-way game, and speedy skating add to his credentials as a number-one



Superheroes battle cancer

With so many lives affected by cancer, McKeck's Place decided that to call upon a few superheroes to fight the disease. Karen Frybort, Dean Witthun and Heather Taylor had fun teaming together for Friday night's Relay for Life, which raised more than \$170,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. There's a story and more photos on pages 16 and 17.

FLU PANDEMIC

County has first case of H1N1 virus

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

Haliburton County has had its first confirmed case of the H1N1 virus but that shouldn't give other residents cause for concern, health officials say.

Last week, the spread of the See Art page 22 virus moved to enough coun-

tries to warrant calling it a pandemic by the World Health Organization but that doesn't mean the illness is increasing in severity. It simply means more people have it in more countries.

In fact, as flu viruses go, H1N1 is relatively mild. It only causes concern when someone with other health issues gets it.

The Haliburton County resident who had the swine flu did not require hospitalization and has recovered, as have the three other people who contracted the virus in the vast catchment area of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit

See Virus page 14

Molou re-opens

MARTHA PERKINS

Harry Potter is coming to the Molou.

After a winter of uncertainty about the future of the Haliburton movie theatre, a new management partnership has been formed that will ensure the theatre's doors stay open this summer.

See Molou page2



The build-your-own boat ramp





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CURRY CHEVROLET BUICK GMC













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TWELVE MILE LAKE ROAD \$1,995,000



A RARE FIND! 1677 feet of frontage and 6+ acres fronting on both beautiful Twelve Mile Lake and Little Boshkung Lake. This point lot is totally private and takes in multiple exposures and has stunning lake views. The historic "Strathcona Lodge" was located here. The original foundation is still present and has the potential to be built on. Two small historic cabins are also on the subject property. Don't miss this opportunity to build your dream home getaway on one of the most neaceful settings in Haliburton County.
Price is plus HST

MOUNTAIN STREET \$539,000



Fantastic home situated on a year-round road in a lovely private neighbourhood.
This lovingly owned and maintained home features 3 bdrms and full bathm on the main level. Enjoy tons of natural lighting in the bright, spacious living room, dining area and kitchen. Step out to the sunroor and feel immersed in nature - overlooking the beautiful flowing creek and forest. Finished lower level with den/bedroom rinished lower level with deribedroom, renovated 3pc bathrm, and large rec room. Great sized lot and large double carport. This family home offers endless possibilities.

KAWAGAMA LAKE \$279,000



the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the

STILLS ROAD \$128,500



This beautiful 1.2-acre building lot is located in the heart of and building site is cleared and ready for your year-round home or getaway. Many apple trees throughout the property. Stunning park-like setting. Surrounded by mature trees in a quiet neighbourhood. Paved year-round municipal road. Walking distance to Eagle Lake Country market, Eagle Lake public beach and boat launch. Stop dreaming and start building your dream home or cottage

WENONA LAKE \$94,500



Fantastic lot in a guiet area. This 0.42-acre lot is the perfect spot to build your families dream cottage or home. Conveniently located on a year-round road with hydro and telephone available and located 15 minutes from Haliburton village. Surrounded by mature trees providing ample privacy. 1/12 interest (ownership) in waterfront lot 62 which has a beautiful sand shoreline and western exposure overlooking Wenona Lake, Adiacent lot is owned by the municipality adding additional

CHELSEA LANE \$69,900



This pretty 1.52-acre lot is in the vicinity of the 3 lake chain-Green-Maple-Beech. Deeded access to Maple Lake within walking distance. Situated just outside West Guilford, betweer Carnarvon and Haliburton with easy seasonal access off HWY 118. The lot is fairly level with a slight elevation to a great spot to build your retreat. Surrounded area. Ample privacy and lots of outdoors.

Seasons Greetings from BAUMGARTNER REALTY GROUP.

